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# News Release

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## Campfire Safety Reminder

**PRESCOTT, AZ (June 3, 2015)** - Prescott National Forest would like to remind forest visitors about fire prevention and safety; we all have a role to play in preventing human-caused fires. Please ensure you extinguish campfires; pay attention to use of equipment; and double check your trailer chains. Report immediately suspicious activity or wildfires. Approximately 24 abandoned campfires have been found on the Prescott NF in the last two weeks; 8 on the Kaibab NF and 97 on the Coconino NF. Remember, a little extra care takes only a few minutes of your time and could prevent a wildfire. One abandoned campfire is too many. Don't let recent rains and cool temperatures fool you – there is an abundance of curing grass and warm temperatures on the way.

A few reminders about the use of campfires and smoking on National Forests:

- Don't throw cigarette butts in the forest or out vehicle windows.
- Keep your campfires small. Bring water and a shovel to extinguish your campfire.
- If possible use an established campfire ring.
- Build campfires away from overhanging branches, steep slopes, dry grass, pine needles and leaves.
- Pile extra wood away from the fire.
- Clear the ground to bare soil within a 10-foot diameter circle.
- Never leave your campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could cause the fire to spread by carrying hot embers out of your fire ring.
- Do not bury your coals as they can smolder and re-ignite later.
- When extinguishing your campfire, use the Pour, Stir, Feel method. Pour water onto your campfire. With a shovel, stir the ashes and embers, using dirt to help cool the fire faster. Gently feel with the back of your hand for any heat in your campfire. If it's too hot to touch, than it's too hot to leave. Repeat these steps until you are certain your campfire is Dead-Out. When it's cool enough to stick your hand in, it's cool enough to leave.

For more information on Campfire Safety, review Smokey Bear's Campfire Safety Guide at <http://www.smokeybear.com/campfire-safety.asp>.

Know before you go. Check current fire information and restrictions at <http://www.wildlandfire.AZ.gov> or at <http://www.wildlandfire.AZ.gov> call 1-877-864-6985